

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: DISSOLUTION OF LAO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION (LAA)

REF: VIENTIANE 0070 LOU

1. ON JANUARY 8, AFTER LEARNING OF MIN OF INTERIOR'S ORDER TO DISSOLVE LAA, DIRECTOR STUART GLAUBERMAN AND STAFF ASSISTANT SOULIVANH KEOMANIVONG CALLED ON SOMLI, DIRECTOR OF MOI'S CULTURE DIVISION, WHO HAD EARLIER ADVISED GLAUBERMAN THAT ALL LAA MATTERS WERE UNDER HIS DIVISIONS JURISDICTION. SOMLI HAD COPY OF DISSOLUTION ORDER, WHICH HE ALLOWED GLAUBERMAN TO SEE, BUT DID NOT OFFER ANY ASSISTANCE OTHER THAN TO SAY THE MATTER SHOULD BE TAKEN UP WITH THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR.

2. ON THE MORNING OF JAN 9, COPIES OF THE ORDER WERE DELIVERED TO THE LAA.

3. ON SAT MORNING, JAN 10, GLAUBERMAN AND SOULIVANH MET WITH THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR, SOMSUNE KHAYKHAMPHITHOUANE.
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SOMSUNE, RESPONDING ONLY TO QUESTIONS, STATED THE LAA

WAS DISSOLVED BECAUSE OF THE NEW SITUATION, THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON (BOARD PRESIDENT DR. BOUNLIEUNG PHOMMASOUVANH) HAD ILLEGALLY LEFT THE COUNTRY, AND THE LAA HAD BEEN FOUNDED AND REGISTERED UNDER THE OLD GOVERNMENT. SOMUNE SAID EMBASSY PROPERTY COULD BE REMOVED AND AUTHORIZED GLAUBERMAN TO KEEP OFFICES OPEN UNTIL FRI., JAN 17, TO WIND UP AFFAIRS. IN RESPONSE TO SOULIVANH'S QUESTION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF RE-ESTABLISHING OF ORGANIZATION, THE MINISTER SAID WHILE IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO FORM A SIMILAR ASSOCIATION THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE A MATTER FOR LATER DISCUSSION. SOMSUNE ALSO STATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE ENGLISH-TEACHING TO CONTINUE IN LAOS AND GAVE STANDARD SPEECH ABOUT FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN LAO AND AMERICAN PEOPLES.

4. AT 1549 THAT AFTERNOON A NOTE WAS DELIVERED TO THE LAA SUMMONING GLAUBERMAN TO THE DEFENSE POLICE HEAD-QUARTERS AT 1600 WHERE GLAUBERMAN AND SOULIVANH MET WITH THE COMMANDER OF THE VIENTIANE DEFENSE POLICE WHO SEEMED AWARE OF EARLIER MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR. THE COMMANDER INFORMED GLAUBERMAN THAT THE LAA WOULD BE USED TO HOUSE A LAO GOVERNMENT AGENCY AND POLICE WOULD BE SENT TO GUARD THE BUILDING (THEY ARRIVED THAT EVENING) TO SEE THAT TABLES, CHAIRS, REFRIGERATORS, AIR CONDITIONERS, DESKS, LIGHTS AND THE LAA VEHICLE, ALL DESCRIBED AS PART OF THE BUILDING, REMAINED. THE COMMANDER REPEATED THE MINISTER'S STATEMENTS THAT EMBASSY PROPERTY WOULD BE REMOVED, LAA OFFICES COULD REMAIN UNTIL JAN 17 TO WIND UP AFFAIRS, AND THAT AN INVENTORY OF LAA PROPERTY WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE.

5. POST HOPES TO REMOVE REMAINING USIS PROPERTY, EXHIBIT MATERIALS AND SOME PUBLICATIONS, TODAY.

DAKS

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